**Platt Amendment (1901)**

*Although the Spanish-American War ended in 1898, U.S. troops continued to occupy the island of Cuba, which had been an imperial possession of Spain, for another five years. The troops withdrew only after the Cuban government—heavily influenced by the United States—agreed to incorporate the Platt Amendment into its constitution. Nevertheless, protests against U.S. power in Cuba would continue, at various levels, for several decades. In the United States, anti-imperialists protested against the amendment and its threat to true Cuban independence. In 1934, a time of great political unrest in Cuba, the amendment was annulled, but Americans continued to have great political and economic influence in Cuba until the 1959 revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power. Perhaps the most enduring legacy of the Platt Amendment today is the U.S. military base at Guantánamo Bay.*

Article I. The Government of Cuba shall never enter into any treaty or other compact with any foreign power or powers which will impair or tend to impair the independence of Cuba, nor in any manner authorize or permit any foreign power or powers to obtain colonization or for military or naval purposes, or otherwise, lodgment in or control over any portion of said island.

Article II. The Government of Cuba shall not assume or contract any public debt to pay the interest upon which, and to make reasonable sinking-fund provision for the ultimate discharge of which, the ordinary revenues of the Island of Cuba, after defraying the current expenses of the Government, shall be inadequate.

Article III. The Government of Cuba consents that the United States may exercise the right to intervene for the preservation of Cuban independence, the maintenance of a government adequate for the protection of life, property, and individual liberty, and for discharging the obligations with respect to Cuba imposed by the Treaty of Paris on the United States, now to be assumed and undertaken by the Government of Cuba. . . .

Article V. The government of Cuba will execute, and, as far as necessary, extend the plans already devised, or other plans to be mutually agreed upon, for the sanitation of the cities of the island, to the end that a recurrence of epidemic and infectious diseases may be prevented, thereby assuring protection to the people and commerce of Cuba, as well as to the commerce of Southern ports of the United States and the people residing therein. . .

Article VII. To enable the United States to maintain the independence of Cuba, and to protect the people thereof, as well as for its own defense, the Government of Cuba will sell or lease to the United States lands necessary for coaling or naval stations, at certain specified points, to be agreed upon with the President of the United States.